

5-4-2021

## COVID-19 Newsletter (vol. 70)

Center for Disaster Medicine, New York Medical College

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# NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE

A MEMBER OF THE Touro College and University System

## Center for Disaster Medicine



**Tuesday, May 4, 2021**

*During this COVID-19 pandemic and other future events, the CDM has been and will continue to be a source of reliable information, education and models for mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. We hope this informational document has helped provide you filtered and actionable information. As the pace of new information and changes occur, we will evaluate the current once per week to determine if this information should be provided on a more frequent basis.*

David Markenson, M.D., M.B.A.

Director

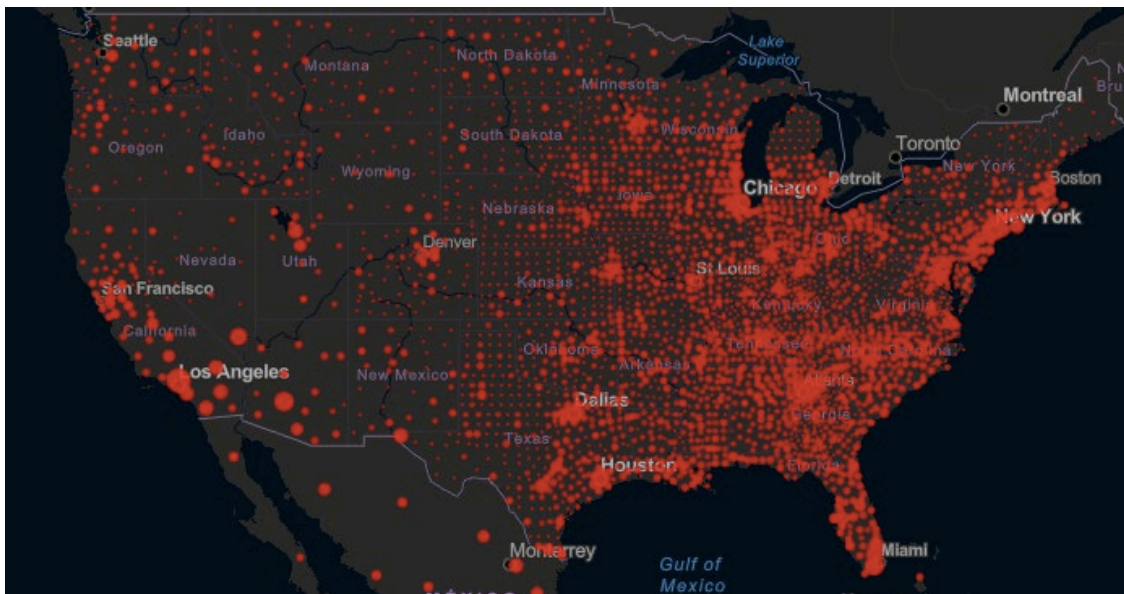
Center for Disaster Medicine

**COVID-19 Statistics**

	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Total Tested
Worldwide	153,185,370	3,209,657	89,924,873	Not Available
United States	32,470,823	577,500	Not Available	436,289,138
New Jersey	1,000,993	25,616	Not Available	13,658,600
New York	2,057,276	52,423	Not Available	51,635,592
Connecticut	340,545	8,112	Not Available	8,056,813

Information as of 5/4/21 at 0000 EDT. Source: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

### **United States COVID-19 Case Map / GIS**



**Center for Disaster Medicine Updates**

- On April 28, 2021, CDM conducted a webinar presentation entitled “How to Prepare and Respond to Mass Casualty Incidents” to firefighters, police, paramedics, emergency management personnel from various Spanish-speaking countries including Chile, Argentina, Ecuador, Colombia, Mexico and Spain
- Coordinating and overseeing COVID-19 screenings at NYMC campus
- Continue to partner with local organizations such as Westchester Department of Emergency Services and Westchester Medical Center to ensure ongoing collaboration with all public safety agencies.
- Coordinating volunteers to support local public health response to COVID-19.
- Conducting research and analysis of current events and COVID-19 response to identify strengths and areas for improvement in other regions.
- Updating and developing new programs to provide enhanced education on public health emergencies including pandemics.
- Exploring course development opportunities in infection prevention and control for frontline responders in the hospital and in the field.
- Serving as a source of information for COVID-19 related concerns or questions regarding public health, emergency medical service (EMS), public safety and healthcare response.
- Local networking and pandemic response analysis for New York’s tri-state area, using first-person experiences to highlight current trends.

**To view the Center for Disaster Medicine's newest webinar, please click here - [The COVID-19 Vaccine: What to Tell Your Patients](#)**

## **The White House**

Remarks by President Biden in Address to a Joint Session of Congress-

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/04/29/remarks-by-president-biden-in-address-to-a-joint-session-of-congress/>

The official website of the White House delivers bold action and immediate relief for American families as the country grapples with converging crises. This includes actions to control the COVID-19 pandemic, provide economic relief, tackle climate change, and advance racial equity and civil rights, as well as immediate actions to reform our immigration system and restore America's standing in the world.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov>

## **Health and Human Services (HHS)**

Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded over \$32 million to 122 organizations that provide training and technical assistance support to HRSA Health Center Program-supported health centers nationwide. These organizations—Primary Care Associations (PCAs), National Training and Technical Assistance Partners (NTTAPs), and Health Center Controlled Networks (HCCNs)—will use the funds to provide health centers with critical COVID-19 related training, technical assistance, and health information technology support.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/04/29/hhs-awards-over-32-million-american-rescue-plan-funding-expand-covid-19-training-support-health-centers.html>

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is announcing a new program covering costs of administering COVID-19 vaccines to patients enrolled in health plans that either do not cover vaccination fees or cover them with patient cost-sharing. Since providers cannot bill patients for COVID-19 vaccination fees, this new program, the COVID-19 Coverage Assistance Fund (CAF), addresses an outstanding compensation need for providers on the front lines vaccinating underinsured patients.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/05/03/hhs-launches-new-reimbursement-program-for-covid19-vaccine-administration-fees-not-covered-by-insurance.html>

For the latest COVID-19 information from HHS

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/coronavirus/index.html>

## **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

To bolster research to help communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19, the National Institutes of Health is funding \$29 million in additional grants for the NIH Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) Against COVID-19 Disparities. This funding was supported by the American Rescue Plan. The awards will provide \$15 million to 11 teams already conducting research and outreach to help strengthen COVID-19 vaccine confidence and access, as well as

testing and treatment, in communities of color. An additional \$14 million will fund 10 new research teams to extend the reach of COVID-19 community-engaged research and outreach. <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-invest-29-million-address-covid-19-disparities>

View the latest COVID-19 information from NIH  
<https://www.nih.gov/coronavirus>

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## **United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**

As of April 30, 2021, 369 tests and sample collection devices are authorized by the FDA under emergency use authorizations (EUAs). These include 270 molecular tests and sample collection devices, 76 antibody and other immune response tests, and 23 antigen tests. There are 49 molecular authorizations and one antibody authorization that can be used with home-collected samples. There is one molecular prescription at-home test, two antigen prescription at-home tests, four over-the-counter (OTC) at-home antigen tests, and two OTC molecular tests. The FDA has authorized 8 antigen tests and 2 molecular

tests for serial screening programs. The FDA has also authorized 477 revisions to EUA authorizations.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-april-30-2021>

For the latest overall FDA information about COVID-19.

<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/counterterrorism-and-emerging-threats/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

## **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

CDC provides the latest science update as of April 30, 2021.

[https://www.cdc.gov/library/covid19/04302021\\_covidupdate.html](https://www.cdc.gov/library/covid19/04302021_covidupdate.html)

COVID-19 vaccines are effective. However, a small percentage of people who are fully vaccinated will still get COVID-19 if they are exposed to the virus that causes it. These are called “vaccine breakthrough cases.” This means that while people who have been vaccinated are much less likely to get sick, it may still happen. Experts continue to study how common these cases are.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/effectiveness/why-measure-effectiveness/breakthrough-cases.html>

The emerging variants CDC is closely monitoring have mutations in the virus genome that alter the characteristics and cause the virus to act differently in ways that are significant to public health (e.g., causes more severe disease, spreads more easily between humans, requires different treatments, changes the effectiveness of current vaccines). It is important to understand that genetic mutations are expected, and some variants can spread and become predominant while others subside.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant-cases.html>

CDC provides daily data tracker which has maps and charts tracking cases, deaths, and trends of COVID-19 in the United States- updated daily by 8 pm ET.

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>

For the latest CDC information

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/index.html>

## **Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)**

CMS proposes to enhance the medical workforce in rural and underserved communities to support COVID-19 recovery and beyond- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule (CMS-1752-P) today for inpatient and long-term care hospitals that builds on the Biden Administration's key priorities to close health care equity gaps and provide greater accessibility to care. Major provisions in the proposed rule would fund medical residency positions in hospitals in rural and underserved communities to address workforce shortages and require hospitals to report COVID-19 vaccination rates among their workers to contain the spread of the virus.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-proposes-enhance-medical-workforce-rural-and-underserved-communities-support-covid-19-recovery>

View the latest information from CMS

<https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Current-Emergencies/Current-Emergencies-page>

## Vaccines

In this section, vaccine-related information from various sources will be collected, reviewed, and tabulated. As of May 4, 2021, the FDA has granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to Pfizer BioNTech, Moderna and Janssen/Johnson & Johnson. Now with three vaccines with EUA, the goal is to vaccinate a larger number of persons in the coming months throughout the United States. As additional vaccines are granted EUA, information for those vaccines will also be included.

CDC provides update that fully vaccinated adults 65 and Older Are 94 percent Less Likely to Be Hospitalized with COVID-19- Both mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna) authorized and recommended in the United States protect against COVID-19-related hospitalization among adults 65 years and older, according to a new CDC assessment that finds fully vaccinated adults 65 years and older were 94 percent less likely to be hospitalized with COVID-19 than people of the same age who were not vaccinated. People 65 and older who were partially vaccinated were 64 percent less likely to be hospitalized with COVID-19 than people who were not vaccinated. People were considered “partially vaccinated” two weeks after their first dose of mRNA vaccine and “fully vaccinated” two weeks after their second dose.

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0428-vaccinated-adults-less-hospitalized.html>

CDC provides update Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People. This set of public health recommendations for fully vaccinated people will be updated and expanded based on the level of community spread of SARS-CoV-2, the proportion of the population that is fully vaccinated, and the rapidly evolving science on COVID-19 vaccines.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

CDC provides update on “How to talk about COVID-19 vaccines with friends and family.” COVID-19 vaccines are new, and it’s normal to for people to have questions about them. The sheer amount of information—and misinformation—about COVID-19 vaccines can be overwhelming to anyone.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/talk-about-vaccines.html>

CDC provides overall US COVID-19 Vaccine, deliveries and administration, maps, charts, and data updated daily by 8 p.m. This section represents all vaccine partners including jurisdictional partner clinics, retail pharmacies, long-term care facilities, Federal Emergency Management Agency and Health Resources and Services Administration partner sites, and federal entity facilities.

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations>

CDC created this section regarding the Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine to provide updated relevant information including side effects and safety data, clinical trials demographic statistics, and information on how the vaccine works.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/janssen.html>



CDC created this section regarding the Moderna vaccine to provide updated relevant information including side effects and safety data, clinical trials demographic statistics, and information on how the vaccine works.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/Moderna.html>

CDC created this section regarding the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine to provide updated relevant information including side effects and safety data, clinical trials demographic statistics, and information on how the vaccine works.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/Pfizer-BioNTech.html>

HHS created this section to provide the latest information about COVID-19 vaccines.

<https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/index.html>

On May 3, 2021, New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that more than 7 million New Yorkers are now fully vaccinated. 91,035 doses have been administered across the state's vast distribution network in the last 24 hours, and more than 1.1 million doses have been administered over the past seven days.

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-more-7-million-new-yorkers-now-fully-vaccinated>

On May 3, 2021, Governor Cuomo, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont announced a significant easing of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions on the region's businesses, venues and gatherings given significant progress in vaccinations and sustained reduction in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-governor-murphy-and-governor-lamont-announce-significant-easing-covid-19>

The NYS DOH COVID-19 Vaccine Tracker Dashboard will update New Yorkers on the distribution of the vaccine including the number of doses received by the state, a breakdown of first or second doses, and the number of persons vaccinated with the first and second doses in each region.

<https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/covid-19-vaccine-tracker>

NYS DOH releases instructions for New York State-operated vaccination sites

<https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>

For NYC DOHMH updated guidance regarding COVID-19 vaccine

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-vaccines.page>

The Vaccine Finder is a one-stop site for New Yorkers to find their nearest COVID-19 vaccination location. The Vaccine Finder can also provide New Yorkers with information to schedule vaccination appointments.

<https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov/>

## **Educational Institution Information**

- Higher Education

- Details surrounding President Biden's proposed investment of \$62 billion to support student completion and retention in higher education are scarce, but experts say there's potential for the program to be the most transformative of the administration's postsecondary proposals. The grant program would offer funding to colleges and universities that serve high numbers of low-income students, particularly community colleges, to adopt success solutions that help students stay enrolled and earn a degree. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2021/05/03/biden-aims-increase-college-success-62-billion-investment>
- K-12
  - Bringing real-world phenomena into science classrooms, from the COVID-19 outbreak to garbage pickup in a community, is a method experts believe can better engage students. In doing so, teachers may also be able to stave off the age-old question from pupils of why they need to learn a particular lesson. But these kinds of lessons also provide a unique opportunity for helping guide science students in developing critical thinking skills and knowing how to find credible sources of information around topics they're learning, including the current pandemic. <https://www.k12dive.com/news/how-to-weave-real-world-phenomena-into-science-lessons/598617/>

## **Clinical Trials**

To view the latest information on clinical trials regarding COVID-19

<https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/results?recrs=&cond=Covid19&term=&cntry=&state=&city=&dist=>

## **American Red Cross**

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/dlp/plasma-donations-from-recovered-covid-19-patients.html>

## **State Updates**

## New York

- Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that the 12 a.m. food and beverage service curfew will be lifted for outdoor dining areas beginning May 17 and for indoor dining areas beginning May 31. Governor Cuomo also announced that the 1 a.m. curfew for catered events where attendees have provided proof of vaccination status or a recent negative COVID-19 test result will be lifted beginning May 17, with the curfew for all catered events set to be lifted May 31. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-state-will-end-food-and-beverage-service-curfew>
- Governor Cuomo announced \$6.7 million in relief aid is being distributed starting today to New York's seafood, marine commercial, and for-hire fishing industries after excessive business losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. New York State will distribute an additional \$5.7 million in the coming months, for a total of \$12.4 million, through the Marine Fisheries Relief Program, which administers federal funding provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-distribution-67-million-covid-19-relief-new-yorks-marine-fishing>
- Governor Cuomo announced that New York City indoor dining will expand to 75 percent capacity beginning Friday, May 7. This brings New York City in line with the rest of New York State. The Governor also announced that hair salons, barber shops and other personal care services will expand to 75 percent capacity beginning May 7. New York City gyms and fitness centers will expand to 50 percent capacity beginning May 15. All changes are subject to state public health guidance including social distancing and masks. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-new-york-city-indoor-dining-will-expand-75-percent-capacity-beginning>
- Governor Cuomo announced that the New York City Subway will resume 24 hour a day service beginning May 17. In April, MTA New York City Transit officials announced 2,009,025 trips were recorded on the subway on April 8, the first time that more than two million trips were taken on the subway since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in New York City. The MTA will continue its unprecedented disinfection and cleaning effort. More than 75 percent of MTA customers agree the subway has never been cleaner. The resumption of 24-hour service will coincide with the Governor's announcement lifting the 12 a.m. food and beverage service curfew for outdoor dining areas. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-new-york-city-subway-will-resume-24-hour-service-beginning-may-17>

## New York State Department of Health (DOH)

On May 3, 2021, Governor Cuomo updated New Yorkers on the state's progress during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and reported lowest 7-day hospitalization rate since November 26, 2020.

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-7-day-average-hospitalizations-2839-lowest-november-26-2020>

For a list of positive cases by county in New York State

<https://covid19tracker.health.ny.gov/views/NYS-COVID19-Tracker/NYSDOHCOVID-19Tracker-Map?%3Aembed=yes&%3Atoolbar=no&%3Atabs=n>

NYS DOH has created a dynamic COVID-19 Tracker which provides COVID-19 information regarding testing, cases, percentages, and fatalities across New York State. It also breaks down cases by county.

<https://covid19tracker.health.ny.gov/views/NYS-COVID19-Tracker/NYSDOHCOVID-19Tracker-Map?%3Aembed=yes&%3Atoolbar=no&%3Atabs=n>

For the latest COVID-19 information from NYS DOH

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

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## **New Jersey**

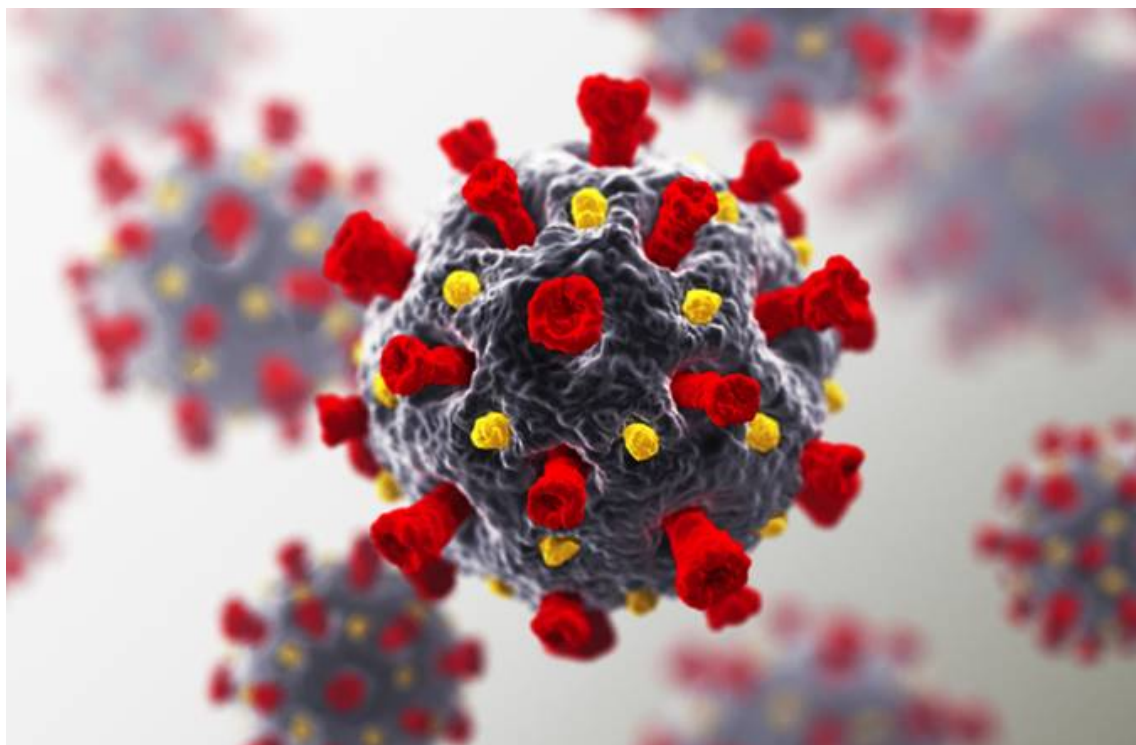
- Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order No. 237, permitting summer youth overnight and day camps for the 2021 season. The Executive Order requires all overnight and day camps to follow COVID-19 health and safety protocols outlined in guidance issued today by the New Jersey Department of Health.  
<https://www.state.nj.us/health/legal/covid19/YouthSummerCampGuidance042821.pdf>
- With COVID-19 numbers trending decisively in the right direction and New Jersey progressing toward its adult-age vaccination goals, Governor Murphy announced an additional easing of restrictions, including a removal of all percentage capacity limits for indoor and outdoor businesses, a lifting of the prohibition on indoor bar seating, and an end to the outdoor gathering limit. As detailed below, some changes will take effect on May 7, with others taking effect on May 19, in coordination with both New York and Connecticut. <https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562021/approved/20210503b.shtml>

## **Connecticut**

- Governor Ned Lamont announced that he has signed into law legislation that updates Connecticut's immunization requirements for students attending preK-12 schools, day care centers, and institutions of higher education by removing exemptions that are not medical. <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2021/04-2021/Governor-Lamont-Signs-Legislation-Updating-School-Immunization-Requirements>
- Governor Lamont and the Connecticut Department of Public Health announced that 27 municipalities and local health departments in Connecticut have been selected by the state to share in more than \$13 million in federal grant money to be used to form partnerships between local health, community organizations, and vaccine providers to promote and increase vaccine equity. Connecticut received the federal funding as part of a nationwide effort to ensure people in underserved communities, including communities of color and ethnically diverse communities, will have equal access to COVID-19

vaccinations. Achieving a high rate of vaccination among state residents is imperative to efforts in Connecticut, and nationwide, to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

<https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/News/Press-Releases/2021/05-2021/Governor-Lamont-Announces-Grants-to-27-Local-Health-Departments>



## Local Updates

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### **New York Blood Center (NYBC)**

For the latest updated NYBC information about COVID-19:

<https://nybc.org/covid-19/>

### **New York City (NYC) Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)**

For NYC DOHMH updated COVID-19 data page

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data.page>

For the latest COVID-19 information from NYC DOHMH

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-main.page>

## **Westchester County Department of Health**

For the latest breakdown of positive cases in Westchester County as of May 2, 2021

<https://wcgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/280339d96db14efd9cc304dba0f3a71d>

For the latest COVID-19 information in Westchester including how to avoid the latest vaccine scams offering earlier access to vaccines.

<https://health.westchestergov.com/2019-novel-coronavirus>

## **Putnam County Department of Health**

Breakdown of positive cases by towns in Putnam County as of April 30, 2021-

<https://www.putnamcountyny.com/covid19/>

For the latest COVID-19 information

<https://www.putnamcountyny.com/health/coronavirus/>

## **Dutchess County Department of Health**

Breakdown of positive cases in Dutchess County as of May 3, 2021

<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/DBCH/covid-19-dashboard.htm>

For the latest COVID-19 information:

<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/DBCH/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.htm>

## **Orange County Department of Health**

Updated COVID-19 dashboard for Orange County, NY as of May 3, 2021

<https://ocnygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/21de1fb5ce0c480f95dc0cf2b8b83b71>

For the latest COVID-19 information

<https://www.orangecountygov.com/1906/2019-Novel-Coronavirus-Information>

## **Rockland County Department of Health**

Review Rockland County's dashboard with the latest COVID-19 information regarding cases as of May 3, 2021

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/d074e0336e81449393a76d1768ceb096>

For the latest COVID-19 information

<https://rocklandgov.com/departments/health/coronavirus-covid-19/>

## **Healthcare**

For the latest COVID-19 information for healthcare facilities from the Greater New York Hospital Association that covers hospitals in the tri-state area.

<https://www.gnyha.org/>



## Center for Disaster Medicine Media

### **Faculty News:**

**The New Normal: The CDC relaxed guidance on masks outdoors - what does it mean for your family?**

News 12 New Jersey

4/27/2021

<https://newjersey.news12.com/the-new-normal-the-cdc-relaxed-guidance-on-masks-outdoors-what-does-it-mean-for-your-family>

Renee Garrick, M.D., vice dean for Westchester Medical Center and professor of clinical medicine

### **Student News:**

**Fears About New Rules on Masks Outdoors**

The New York Times

4/28/2021

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/28/opinion/letters/masks-covid.html>

Sonia Hur, SOM Class of 2021

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